



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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U.S. INDICTS ACCUSED BANK ROBBER;
ENSUING CHASE INJURES TWO

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that the Grand Jury returned a two-count indictment today against MICHAEL A. CREWS for armed robbery of a Manhattan branch of Washington Mutual Bank on September 12, 2003.

According to the criminal Complaint, filed on September 13, 2003, MICHAEL A. CREWS walked into a branch of Washington Mutual Bank located at 2438 Broadway in Manhattan. CREWS allegedly approached a bank teller and passed a note stating that he had a gun and demanding money. CREWS then is accused of displaying the butt of the gun to the teller and told her to keep her eyes on the gun. The bank teller handed CREWS approximately \$1845 in cash. In the cash bag, the teller also placed an dye pack designed to explode, allowing the stolen money to be traced.

According to the Complaint, police officers in a marked

police car saw CREWS walking with the bag, from which was emanating red smoke caused by the exploded dye pack. The officers attempted to apprehend CREWS, but he was able to get into his car parked nearby and drive away. The Complaint alleged that CREWS was followed by police officers, until he lost control of his car and crashed into a pet store located at 50th Street and Ninth Avenue in Manhattan. Two pedestrians were struck by CREWS's car when he crashed, one of whom was propelled through the pet store's storefront window and suffered severe injuries. The victim remains in serious condition at a local hospital.

If convicted, CREWS faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison on Count One of the Indictment, which charged him with armed bank robbery, and a mandatory minimum of seven years in prison on Count Two, which charged him with carrying and possessing a firearm in furtherance of the bank robbery.

CREWS, 46, lives in the Bronx, New York.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts and cooperation of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") and the Joint Bank Robbery Task Force of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the NYPD.

Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM A. BURCK is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges in the Indictment and Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.

